

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 936
By Kilby

A RESOLUTION to create a special joint committee to study
assistive technology assistance.

WHEREAS, there exists in the State of Tennessee a need to provide assistance with loans and in the purchase of assistive technology equipment or other equipment, which is designed to enable persons with disabilities to become more independent or more productive members of the community with an improved quality of life; and

WHEREAS, there may be a need for a specific fund directed to provide such assistance; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that there is hereby created a special joint committee to study the need for assistive technology assistance in Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the special joint committee shall consider the need to establish an assistive technology loan fund and the need for a board or other authority to administer the fund and the specific powers that authority would hold. The committee shall also consider eligibility criteria for the loans, the terms of repayment of the loans, and specific uses for the loans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the committee shall consist of eight (8) members as follows: one (1) member of the Senate Government Operations Committee, one (1) member of the Senate General Welfare, Health and Human Resources Committee, one (1) member of the House Government Operations Committee, one (1) of the House Health and Human Resources Committee, all to be appointed by the respective Speakers, and four (4) non-legislative citizen

members with disabilities, two (2) to be appointed by the Speaker of the House and two (2) to be appointed by the Speaker of the Senate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all appropriate state agencies shall provide assistance to the special joint committee upon request of the chair.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all legislative members of the special joint committee who are duly elected members of the General Assembly shall remain members of such committee until the committee reports its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the non-legislative committee members shall not receive a salary, but shall be reimbursed for travel expenses at the same rate as state employees. All reimbursement for travel expenses for non-legislative members shall be in accordance with the provisions of the comprehensive travel regulations as promulgated by the department of finance and administration and approved by the attorney general and reporter. Such reimbursement for both legislative and non-legislative members shall be made by funds available through the department of human services division of rehabilitation services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the special joint committee shall be convened by the member with the most years of continuous service in the General Assembly, and at its first meeting shall elect a chair, vice chair, and such other officers the committee deems necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the special committee shall timely report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the One Hundred Fourth General Assembly no later than January 1, 2005, at which time the committee shall cease to exist.